



West Melton SCHOOL

Te Kura o Papatahora

Driving a Passion for Learning

Board Newsletter

Issue 3 | December 2021

Kia ora koutou Whānau, kua tae ki te wā Kirihimete!

The 2021 school year was like no other, but whatever challenges were thrown our way - our tamariki, our SLT and wider school team plus our fabulous community continued to show a resilient and can-do attitude. Plus many many highlights (see side table) to celebrate and be proud of.

With that said, the summer break is certainly welcomed by all, no doubt.

The 2021 year saw our new Principal | Tumuaki, Tracey Riley along with Mark Maddren as Deputy and the entire team build on our values and ICE drivers as a way we do things, it's who we are. This has been fundamental to seeing our kura shine and continue to grow our reputation as a school driving a passion for learning.

The successful recruitment campaign for our 2022 teachers is a perfect example of this. Record high numbers of quality applicants from across the country provided a difficult challenge when confirming the positions - acknowledging the reputation of the school and the staff. Welcome to Steph Birkett, Clarissa Morrison, Michael James and Brad Meads who are joining us in the new year.

As we say hello to our new West Melton team, we say tēnā koe me te poroporoaki, thank you and farewell to teachers Christina Sands, Nicole Dunlop, Kathryn Moore and Jane Howden. Thank you for your dedication to our kura, our akonga and our wider West Melton whanau. More about this later in the newsletter.

This is also where we say farewell to our Year 8's, off to their next adventure to continue their learning journey, wherever that may be. You have led the senior school, displaying our values and respect. We are proud to call you West Melton school alumni.

A special thank you to our Friends of West Melton School parents for all of their efforts this year, thank you also to those sideline standers, car poolers, team organisers and coaches, and parent supporters (Covid restrictions allowing) that answered the call to support when needed. You all help set West Melton apart.

Stay well, travel safe and we look forward to seeing you again in 2022.

Ngā mihi,

JOHN WILLIAMS (BoT Chair)

HIGHLIGHTS OF TERM FOUR!

Year 8 Camps



Year 5 - 8 Athletics



West Melton's Got Talent



Market Day



Production



Transition Week



Celebration of Learning



Staff only day



Labour Weekend



Show Weekend



School Photos



Kowhai Sanctuary Visits



Prizegiving



Year 8 Leavers Events



School Pool

We realise there is disappointment that the Pool hasn't yet opened yet this year and thank you to those families who have offered to help with volunteering etc. Please be assured we are continuing to seek assurances from the Government that we can in fact open safely and that our proposed plans will keep the community safe.

While we wait for that information to come through we are getting all the admin done in the background so that we can open the pool as soon as practical after the decision is made.

Each year a group of families volunteer to monitor the pool in return for a free pool key. These families are rostered on and take the pool cover on and off, perform simple water tests and pass on any issues etc to the Pool Coordinator. We will be asking again for these volunteers when the pool opens - keep an eye out on Facebook for updates.

Celebrations



Congratulations to Annalyse Bain, Jane Howden, Madelyn Walker-Ibadulla and Brianna Oorthuis who all completed their Teacher Registration this year. They have done a wonderful job during their registration process!

Congratulations also to our Year 8's who have successfully completed their tenure at West Melton School and graduated as the class of 2021. We wish them all the very best in their High School adventures and hope they take the West Melton Spirit with them.

Congrats to Tracey Riley and Mark Maddren for completing their first successful year as Principal and Deputy Principal! Here's to many more years to come.

Congratulations to former pupil George Watson on receiving the West Melton Scholarship Prize. This award is given annually to one West Melton Alumni who are in tertiary study.

Property Corner

While we have a lot of plans afoot for 2022 - the Christmas break will be relatively quiet in the School. You will see some new shade sails going up on the awesome steps FOWMS provided as part of the 2019 Fete and some new heat pumps going into the admin and staff room areas to allow our staff to have a nicer climate for their important work.

In 2022 we have plans to upgrade TiKouka and also continue with Pool maintenance and improvements. We continue to work with Friends of West Melton School in using their generous donations from the Fete and hope to complete some work on the Library and outdoor spaces.

Over the holidays while the school is closed we hope you can pop in for a play on the playground or a spin on the BMX track.

Farewells & Changes

Thank you so much to all our staff who are leaving this year - words can't entirely express our gratitude for your service and the impact you've had on our kids' lives, but we will give it a go....

Kathryn Moore has been at West Melton School for a phenomenal 25 years and is finally flying the nest and onto new things. Kathryn has seen the school through tremendous change and has been a loyal and passionate part of the teaching team - we are so grateful for her service and wish her all the very best for her next stage.

Christina Sands is leaving our school after eight amazing years. Christina has taught in a range of communities and year levels and is beloved by many children. She has also been the Across School Leader for our Kāhui Ako for the past two and a half years.

Nicole Dunlop has been away from school during 2021 on maternity leave and has now formally resigned her full time role but is joining us again in 2022 as the Beginning Teacher release. We are so excited to have her back on the team in her new role and appreciate everything she gave to our community during her full time years.

Jane Howden has been with WMS for the last three years and have brought a ton of fun and laughter as well as her fabulous teaching skills. Jane is heading off on her OE next year but we will see her before she goes as a guest teacher for Feb 4 earlt in 2022.

And NOT farewell but a huge thank you and acknowledgement to Thelma Herring who is staying in her teaching role but is shifting out of her Team Leader role and also changing to 4 days per week. Thelma has been a huge part of our junior school for many years and is a wonderful asset to our team. We hope you enjoy the changes 2022 brings!

